

# NEWS FROM THE LABOR WORLD

**The Fellow That's Doing His Best.**  
You may talk of your battle scarred  
heroes,  
Of martyrs and all of the rest,  
But there's another I think just as  
worthy—  
The fellow that's doing his best.

He doesn't wear gold braid and tinsel,  
Nor ride on the wave's highest crest,  
But he's always where duty demands  
him—  
This fellow that's doing his best.

No trumpet blare tells of his coming,  
For fame he is never in quest;  
But he's always a hero of heroes, this  
fellow  
Who is always found doing his best.

And I'm sure in the day of the judgment,  
When many shall fall at the test,  
There'll be one who will pass without  
trouble—  
The fellow that's doing his best.

And the gates of the heavenly city,  
The beautiful home of the blest,  
Will swing wide for my hero to enter—  
The fellow that's doing his best.  
—Dallas (Texas) News.

## NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD.

### Items of Interest Gathered from Many Sources.

According to the report of the United States commissioner of education the average monthly wages of teachers for 1903 was \$49 for men and about \$40 for women. Less than 28 per cent of the teachers were men, or 122,382, out of a total of 439,596.

The Barbers' Union in Indiana won its case against barbershops keeping open on Sundays. The proprietors of such establishments who had been arrested for violation of the law were fined. No appeals were taken and the law will not be attacked further.

The book and job printers of New York have been granted an increase of \$1.50 a week in wages, making the pay \$21 a week after Jan. 1. The union withdrew its demand for an eight-hour day until Jan. 1, 1906, when the national movement for eight hours will begin.

The charter of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, which claims 150,000 members, was revoked by the American Federation of Labor convention because that union failed to obey the Boston convention ruling recognizing the jurisdiction of the Amalgamated Woodworkers over mill work.

Available figures go to show that in the twenty years between 1880 and 1900 there were 22,793 strikes, which cost the United States in wages, expense and direct loss of trade, nearly \$400,000,000. In the same time there were a little over 1,000 lockouts, costing nearly \$100,000,000. These three items of loss by no means represent its full extent.

A referendum vote of the membership of the Cigarmakers' International Union just taken decided that no convention will be held this year. It has been eight years since the last convention. Amendments to the constitution are adopted by the referendum and the officers elected the same way. Thousands of dollars have been saved by the organization.

The Central Trades Council of Mobile, Ala., has adopted a novel scheme to form a women's auxiliary. An entertainment has been arranged to take place on the night the new auxiliary is to be organized. Admission to this entertainment for a man coming alone will be 50 cents; if he brings with him his wife, sweetheart, mother, aunt, sister or cousin he will be admitted free.

The Central Labor Union of Washington, D. C., has unseated the local union of steamfitters because it refused to affiliate with the United Association of Plumbers, Gasfitters and Steamfitters. It was for refusal to do the same thing that the charter of the Chicago Federation of Labor was revoked. The latter body, however, has been granted thirty days in which to

oust the steamfitters and Franklin pressfeeders, or its suspension will become permanent.

The Typothetae of New York has announced that at a conference of committees representing the Typothetae, the association of employing printers, and Typographical union, No. 6, the union committee has withdrawn its demand for an eight-hour day, taking an increase in wages instead. The demand of the compositors applied only to book and job offices. The advance in wages granted was \$1.50 a week, bringing the wages up to \$21 after Jan. 1. According to the union the demand for shorter hours is put over for another year only.

Fred Rauhauser Jr., the young man arrested on the charge of aiding and abetting the alleged dynamiting of foundries in the strike of the Molders' union, declared that the police of Cincinnati, arrayed against the union, terrorized him into making a false confession. The story told by young Rauhauser that under directions from officers of the Molders' union he placed dynamite cartridges in the lathes of the Eureka foundry, denied on all sides, was denied by the apprentice himself, who declared that the police forced him to make the alleged confession.

John Spiess, business agent; Hugo Pfeifer, treasurer, and John Nolle and Emil Lippert, members of the Chicago Bakers' union, were indicted for conspiracy to interfere with the business of the Hensner Baking Company. Officials of the company charged that the four men had urged a boycott upon the products of the company because it employed nonunion bakers. Spiess and Pfeifer were held to the October grand jury on the same charge, but it refused to indict them. Job & Taylor are the attorneys for the company and the charge was brought under the "railroad act."

A special report of the census bureau issued recently shows that 1,750,178 children in the United States are compelled to work for their living. They form more than 6 per cent of the total number of workers, and the boys outnumber the girls almost three to one, the figures being 1,364,411 boys and 485,676 girls. That the American nation is not made up entirely of workers is shown by the total, 29,073,233, which is only one-half of the population of ten years of age and over and about two-fifths of the entire population. The proportion of workers has increased almost 3 per cent over the former statistics.

The majority and minority reports of the committee on resolutions on the fight in the Federation of Labor convention between longshoremen and seamen was voted down, and the matter now stands as it did before the convention met. The official count on the minority report was announced as 7,729 against and 7,025 for. A roll call was then demanded on the majority report of the committee, which was adverse to the Seamen's union, but recommended that the matter be settled by a conference between a committee to be appointed by the disputing organizations. This report was also voted down.

Samuel Gompers was, by practically a unanimous vote, re-elected president of the American Federation of Labor. One delegate, Victor Berger of Milwaukee, a leader of the socialistic element in the convention, voted in the negative and asked that his vote be so recorded. Gompers was given a great ovation when he took up the gavel. Secretary Frank Morrison and Treasurer John B. Lennon were unanimously chosen to serve another term. The following eight vice presidents were re-elected: James Duncan, John Mitchell, James O'Connell,

Max Morris, Thomas I. Kidd, D. A. Hayes, Daniel J. Keefe and William J. Spencer.

The first two union men to work on the Panama canal left Chicago last week. They are William and Philip Bates, members of the International Brotherhood of Steam Shovel and Dredgmen. William Bates is an engineer and his wages while working on the canal will be \$190 a month, with free board and living quarters and free hospital services. His brother is a crane man and will be paid \$165 a month. Transportation is furnished the men from New York to Colon and return. Thomas J. Dolan, secretary of the organization, said that he expected about 200 members of his union would find work on the canal when it is fairly started. While the wages of the men are fixed at \$190 a month for engineers and \$165 for crane men, a bonus will be paid to men who handle 50,000 cubic yards or more a month.

Whatever the outcome of the present strike may be, it is a good guess that it is the beginning of a series of petty and annoying strikes which the packers will have to deal with until they agree to meet committees from their skilled workmen and make agreements on sensible lines. The unions were beaten badly enough at the close of the last dispute, but the policy being pursued by the superintendents and foremen is just the thing to keep the spirit of revolt alive, and there will be a reaction some day. The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union is not dead by any means. The official reports show 254 local unions in good standing and paying per capita tax at the end of October, and that is a pretty healthy condition of affairs after a strike such as that of last summer.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

In accordance with brief notices posted three hours earlier, the rail and steel mills of the Illinois Steel company in South Chicago were shut down. No date was set for the reopening of the plant. President E. J. Buffington of the company said it was the regular temporary shutdown which comes at the close of each year. The order throws 3,000 men out of work, or nearly half of the total force. They were among the best paid in the mills, earning \$6 to \$12 a day, under semi-annual contracts, on the "tonnage" system. Last June, when the renewal of the contract was sought, the company declined to enter an agreement. The shutdown was ordered a week earlier in November last year. When the mills resumed operations the pay of practically all the workers except those in the steel and rail departments was cut 10 to 25 per cent. A still greater reduction is anticipated by the men now out of work.

In New Zealand the biggest banking institutions belong to the people, and the poor man gets the same terms as the wealthy one. Of course, the money power fought this and the progressive taxes, but the common people held the government, and the money power no longer rules New Zealand. This national loan office, with the postal savings banks and state operation of the main bank of issue, the heart of the financial system taken over by the state in 1894-5, results in the substantial nationalization of credit, and enables the government to infuse justice and stability into the financial affairs of the commonwealth, and practically prohibits panics or serious depression. To checkmate the coal trust, which was charging exorbitant rates, the government established state coal mines and operates them to supply its railways, and public works, and the public also, in case the companies again lift prices to an unreasonable height. The mere presence of state mines is apt to prevent any unreasonable action on the part of the companies.

### Find Fossil Reptile.

A new marine reptile has been discovered in the Hosselkus limestone in the upper triassic of Shasta county, California, by Miss A. M. Alexander, an enthusiast on the subject of fossils.



### Value of Grass for Poultry.

Though thoroughly appreciating the value of good grass range, with all that goes with it in the way of insects, worms, seeds and exercise, as well as grass, we would not wish to fully in-forse the statement as to the saving in grain effected by a good grazing ground unless such statement was supported by details sufficient to demonstrate the correctness of his opinion. In our own experience we have never regarded grass, hay or bulky green foods as valuable to substitute for any considerable part of the grain ration. We have always found that chickens well supplied with green food and meat food were heartier feeders of grain than those fed grain alone, except in the extreme hot weather, when, if left to themselves, they will generally eat so much green stuff and so little grain that both growth and egg production are checked.

According to our experience and way of estimating values, these accessories of the grain ration do not so much economize in actual cost of food as increase the capacity for digesting and utilizing the staple grain foods. That is, they increase production. We have found, too, that they increase it, as a rule, much more than enough to pay for the increased cost of food. Another point to be considered is that the use of rations so balanced not only increases the efficiency of the digestive organs, but by preserving their efficiency prolongs the useful life of the fowl. As Mr. Strickland says, a bulky ration distending the stomach serves certain useful ends. The trouble with the all-grain ration is that it is too concentrated. It burns out the digestive apparatus. Fowls can stand it for awhile, and may grow better or lay better on it than they would on a ration containing much green stuff, but they will not last so long.

Some say and think it the better policy to force the fowls for all they are worth, and when they are exhausted turn them off, but the wisdom of that policy is open to doubt. Indeed it has been discredited in many experiences.

In most northern sections grass cannot be grown during the winter. Where our winters are quite reliably "open" enough to give fowls a good many opportunities for foraging, winter rye is the favorite crop for poultry, and it could be used much more than it is.

### Saving Young Fruit Trees.

As the plant life upon which the rabbit lives is killed by frost, the farmer should look to his young fruit trees. The rabbit is the greatest enemy to the young orchard and he sometimes begins his assaults upon the trees very early in the fall. As soon as it is noticeable that he is looking with favor upon the bark of the trees, they should be wrapped. Any printing office can furnish the farmer at a low cost, with heavy manila paper, the kind upon which sale bills are printed. Two or three layers of this paper securely tied with binder twine will save the tree from the pest.

### Pleasure in Saddle Horse.

There are a certain percentage of farmers in every country who have a special liking for light harness horses. They always drive a good team and get the same pleasure in working with them that others do with their pure bred cattle, hogs or sheep. It is strange that the saddle horse has not become more popular with northern farmers who have a taste for the light horses. The pleasure to be derived from working with him is fully as great as with the light driver, and the demand for him seems to be constantly increasing.